April 1, 2003

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Closure Project
1425 Plain City-Georgesville Rd.
West Jefferson, OH 43162

Dear Mr. Baillieul:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (March 22-28, 2003)

I. Operations:

Building JN-1:

Work on Work Instruction (WI) -1154 that covers High Energy Cell (HEC) well decontamination continued. All wells were decontaminated to less than 200 mR/hr. The large well and five of the six small wells were filled with foam, and the covers were secured. The sixth small well was filled with concrete due to water leaking in, and the cover was secured. The gamma scan hole was filled with foam, and a cover was secured over it.

Work with the Safety staff is continuing to finalize the lead program, which will allow lead removal to resume under WI-1129. Comments have been returned and incorporated on WI-1129, and the lead program requirements have been added to the WI as an addendum. The training program is being finalized and staff will be trained in the near future.

The Myers Movers plan for removing the cranes and crane rails from the HEC was reviewed, and a teleconference was held with Myers Movers to provide input for modifying the quote and work plan. The quote was updated, and the procurement process was started. Once the work plan is finished, it will be added to WI-1099 to cover crane removal.

Preliminary design for the JN-1 pump room was reviewed with Prater Engineering and the proposed contractor (Sauer). A preliminary layout of the room was developed.

Decontamination and foaming was completed for 66 of 74 wells located in the Charpy cell. Four drums of chemicals for use with the InstaCote® equipment were received. Representatives are scheduled to be on site March 31 to upgrade the system.

Conceptual plans for repackaging the Saxton fuel pin were worked on, and shipping options for the repackaged pins are being evaluated.

Work performed under WI-1125, "Utility Removal in the Hot Equipment Storage Room," is approximately 95% completed. The remaining work is on hold pending completion of other tasks related to the Controlled Access Area (CAA).

Staff was briefed on "Utility Removal in the CAA/OBD" (WJ-1159), and work started. Work is anticipated to continue next week.

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

The final design drawings of the utility relocation for JN-4 Isolation Plan were distributed for review. A meeting was held with BWSC to provided comments on preliminary drawings for New Access Road for JN-4. The finalized plan and WI for a geotechnical investigation of New Access Road for JN-4 was developed and issued for comments.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:

Cask #2 was returned to its trailer in the JN-1 High Bay. Setup and preparations to unload Cask #2 on Saturday were begun. The cask will be surveyed and shipped to Duratek in Barnwell, SC. All TRU packaging videotapes were reviewed during the weekend, which will allow the DOE auditors to complete their reviews as their schedule allows. The paperwork review continued.

The BCLDP received from Westinghouse TRU Solutions (WTS) a quote estimating the fabrication cost for a 72B cask trailer. The estimate is $120,000, and the schedule for fabrication is a minimum of 16 weeks. The 72B cask is an option for the BCLDP to ship remote-handled TRU waste. Currently WTS has six casks, but only one trailer.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Storage:

This week the BCLDP revised and formally transmitted to DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO), TRU Waste Profiles to update the CBFO Baseline Inventory Report (BIR). The current BCLDP remote-handled (RH-) TRU waste inventory is 118 drums onsite and 20 drums stored at Hanford.

The DOE CBFO is preparing an amendment to the TRU Record of Decision (ROD). Prior to the amendment submittal, all TRU waste generating sites must complete their revisions and formal submittals to the CBFO BIR. The BCLDP's request to amend the ROD includes shipping RH TRU to Waste Control Specialist and contact-handled TRU waste to a consolidation site for characterization and certification.

Bids were requested for the purchase of addition shielding units, which could be used for storage of TRU waste on site, either in JN-3 or on an outside storage pad.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was contacted regarding the potential lead times for modifying the current license for storage of TRU waste outside. Discussions will continue next week.

SAXTON PIN DISPOSITION:

The decision was made to address NEPA considerations for shipment of the Saxton pin to the Savannah River Site using a Categorical Exclusion.

Technical information for the Saxton pin was transmitted to GE for use in evaluating the suitability of shipping the pin using the GE-2000 cask.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Five (5) 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the Charpy Cell. Forty-nine cubic feet (49 ft^3) of compactable LLW were accepted for packaging. Non-compactable low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 and JN-3 was packaged into B-25 boxes and IP-2 sea/land containers, for a total volume of 278 ft^3 (168 ft^3 for Envirocare and 110 ft^3 for Hanford disposal.)

One 55-gallon drum of contaminated PCB light ballasts from the CAA was packaged. The PCB LLW is destined for Envirocare of Utah for treatment and disposal. One 55-gallon drum of contaminated mercury mixed LLW was packaged for disposal at Permafix/M&EC.

Thirty-four cubic feet (250 gallons) of JN-2 Radioanalytical Laboratory water and 11 cubic feet (85 gallons) of JN-1 rainwater were radiologically free-released and transferred into the evaporator. Fourteen cubic feet (14 ft^3) of batteries were free-released for Battelle Columbus Operations Hazardous Waste Operations recycle/disposal.

Twelve B-25 boxes of LLW were shipped to Envirocare for disposal. The total volume of LLW shipped was 1,080 ft^3.

Technology Deployment:

In order to determine the effects of freezing weather on water injection, a "spring" injection profile will be developed. One thousand two hundred gallons of water were injected into Plot #2 (WI-984), and data for the injection cycle testing are being reviewed. The advance copies of the injection and extraction procedures also are being reviewed. Engineering modifications to extract water from the field are nearly complete. Plot #2 subsurface water level monitoring continued.

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

Safety performance is 185 days and 129,348 exposure hours without a lost time injury accident.

III. Facilities and Equipment:

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance were completed for the West Jefferson North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds. The evaporator is turned on and working well. Potential contractors' bids to resurface the JN-1 Pump Room roof are being reviewed by staff. The Hyster 6500 forklift was placed back into service with a new backrest. Annual DOP test of the JN-1 LLC HEPA system is complete

Planning continued in the following areas:

- JN-1B Pump Room Roof resurfacing (WI-1131) is in the review cycle.
- Procedure revision implementation addressing replacement of the JN-1B groundwater sump pump. The current pump's float switch has failed.

IV. Future Work Activities:

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weaver, P.E., Manager
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk